

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/649,997	MORI ET AL.	
	Examiner HUNG T. NGUYEN	Art Unit 2841	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 06/19/06.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-2, 4-22.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.



DISCUSSION OF THE PRIOR ART AND REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: in the examiner's opinion, the allowability of claims 1-2, 4-22 resides in the combination of elements which has been recited in independent claim 1.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-2, 4-22 are allowed.

Regarding claim 1: Chang discloses in figure 1, a universal serial bus hub comprising a top portion (a top portion (surface consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031); a bottom portion (opposite with a top portion) opposite the top portion (surface, consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031) except, Chang does not disclose the a first region and a second region; the first region is higher than the second region; and the first universal serial bus port is at the first region. There would be no motivation to make these modifications.

Regarding claim 4: Chang discloses in figure 1, a universal serial bus hub comprising a top portion (surface consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031), a bottom portion (opposite with a top portion) opposite the top portion.

Chang does not disclose a hole is located between the first side and the second side and extends from the top portion to the bottom portion. There would be no motivation to make these modifications.

Regarding claim 15: Chang discloses in figure 1, a housing comprising: a bottom portion (opposite with a top portion) opposite the top portion (surface consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031); a first side between the top portion (a top portion (surface consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031) and the bottom portion (opposite with a top portion); and a second side between the top portion (surface consisting three openings 104, 1030, 1031) and the bottom portion (opposite with top portion).

Chang does not disclose the first region and a second region; the first region is higher than the second region; and the first universal serial bus port is at the first region. There would be no motivation to make these modifications.

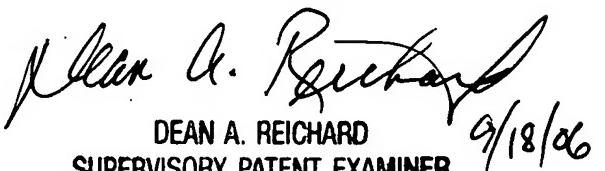
Relevant Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The Varga Donald (US D421962) teaches the USB hub, Tong Eric (US 6141221) teaches the universal bus docking station, Chung Ming Tsai (US 6085925) teaches the Housing for network products.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is 571-272-5983. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00AM - 5:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, REICHARD DEAN can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.


DEAN A. REICHARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800
9/18/06